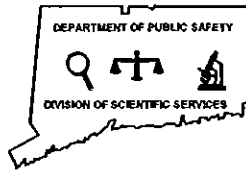




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henlon
Chief of Staff

March 24, 2009

Rep. Michael P. Lawlor, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrew J. McDonald, Co-Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 6173 AN ACT CONCERNING PAWN BROKERS

The Department of Public Safety advises of fiscal impact and comments on bill.

This bill would require pawnbrokers to maintain electronic records of property received and submit such electronic records to the Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police. The bill would require that the record keeping system utilized by a pawnbroker, for property received after October 1, 2009, be deemed acceptable by the Commissioner of Public Safety. Currently, a pawnbroker's system of record keeping is "deemed appropriate" by the chief of police in cities and by the selectmen in the respective towns.

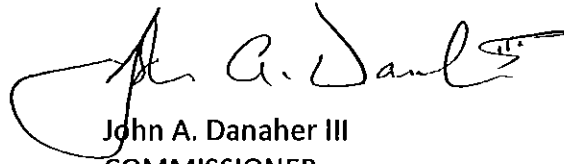
Mandating a universally acceptable record keeping system would require considerable state resources and would have notable fiscal impact on the Department of Public Safety. Passage of the bill would require the Department of Public Safety to create and maintain a new database with digital imaging capabilities. It is probable that additional personnel as well as added office and computer equipment would be needed. This bill is also vague as to how the information would be shared with municipalities and unclear as to how the Department of Public Safety would enforce any failure to comply with its provisions.

The existing statutory framework allows any state or municipal police officer to examine a pawn broker's record-keeping system and the place where the business is carried out at all times. This existing procedure provides the needed oversight with less government.

Although conceptually the aims and objectives of this bill are laudable, in that they seek to protect victim's property and therefore promote the public safety, the framework within which this bill would be implemented would lead to a fiscal impact on the Department of Public Safety.

A provision of the bill that the Department of Public Safety does support would prohibit pawnbrokers from accepting property when the serial number, model number or other identification mark appears to have been intentionally altered, removed or defaced. Adoption of this language alone would accomplish a good public safety goal without fiscal impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety